

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A medical article comprising:
 - (a) an adhesive region comprising an adhesive;
 - (b) a therapeutic agent, wherein at least a portion of said therapeutic agent is adhered to a surface of said adhesive region; and
 - (c) microparticles, at least a portion of which are ~~attached~~ adhered to said surface of said adhesive region,
wherein said therapeutic agent and said microparticles are applied to said surface of said adhesive region as separate entities ~~is neither partially nor fully embedded within the microparticles~~ and wherein the microparticles create pockets between them which are occupied by the therapeutic agent and from which the therapeutic agent is released.
2. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said adhesive is a curable adhesive.
3. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 2, wherein said adhesive is a curable, protein-based adhesive.
4. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said adhesive is a pressure-sensitive adhesive.
5. (Original) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said adhesive is a solvent assisted adhesive.
- 6-9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously presented) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said microparticles are microspheres.
11. (Original) The medical article of claim 10, wherein said microspheres have a number average diameter between 0.1 to 50 μm .

12. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said medical article comprises at least two populations of microparticles that are of different composition from one another.
13. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said medical article comprises at least two populations of microparticles having different size distributions.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said microparticles are biodisintegrable.
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Previously presented) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said medical article is provided by a process in which said therapeutic agent is admixed in powder form with said microparticles and applied to said adhesive region.
18. (Previously presented) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said medical article is provided by a process in which said microparticles are applied to said adhesive region in powder form, followed by the application of said therapeutic agent in powder form.
19. (Previously presented) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said microparticles are biostable.
20. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said microparticles are biodisintegrable.
21. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said therapeutic agent is unadhered to said adhesive region and occupies interstices between said microparticles.
22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said adhesive region is biointegrable.
24. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said medical article further comprises an additional biointegrable adhesive region over said therapeutic agent.
25. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 24, further comprising additional therapeutic agent adhered to a surface of said additional adhesive region.
26. (Original) The medical article of claim 1, further comprising a medical article substrate, wherein said adhesive region is disposed in a layer over at least a portion of said medical article substrate.
27. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said medical article comprises first and second distinct adhesive regions, which may be of the same or of different composition.
28. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said medical article comprises first and second therapeutic agents of different composition.
29. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said medical article comprises first and second populations of microparticles of different composition.
30. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said medical article comprises first and second populations of microparticles of different size distribution.
31. (Original) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said therapeutic agent is a high-molecular-weight therapeutic agent.
32. (Original) The medical article of claim 31, wherein said high-molecular-weight therapeutic agent is a polynucleotide-containing therapeutic agent.

33. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said adhesive is mussel protein adhesive.

34. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said medical article comprises:

(a) a first therapeutic agent and a first population of microparticles adhered to a surface of a first adhesive region; and

(b) a second therapeutic agent and a second population of microparticles adhered to a surface of said a second adhesive region which is distinct from said first adhesive region, wherein said first and second adhesive regions may be of the same or different compositions,

wherein said first and second therapeutic agents may be of the same or different compositions, and

wherein said first and second populations of microparticles may be of the same or different composition or of the same or different size distribution.

35. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 34, wherein said first and second adhesive regions are of different composition.

36. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 34, wherein said first and second therapeutic agents are of different composition.

37. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 34, wherein said first and second populations of microparticles are of different composition.

38. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 34, wherein said first and second populations of microparticles are of different size distribution.

39. (Previously presented) The medical article of claim 1, further comprising a biodegradable layer over said therapeutic agent and said microparticles.

40. (Original) The medical article of claim 1, wherein said medical article is an implantable or insertable medical device.

41. (Original) The medical article of claim 40, wherein said implantable or insertable medical device is selected from a balloon, a catheter, a stent, a patch, a heart valve, a bone prosthesis, a pacemaker, a vena cava filter, and an abnormal abdominal aneurism device.

42. (Original) The medical article of claim 40, wherein said implantable or insertable medical device further comprises a biodegradable protection layer disposed over said therapeutic agent to protect said therapeutic agent during device delivery.

43. (Previously presented) The medical article of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said adhesive region is biodegradable and wherein said therapeutic agent is a high-molecular-weight therapeutic agent.

44. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 1, wherein the medical article is a balloon.

45. (Withdrawn) The medical article of claim 43, wherein the medical article is a balloon.

46. (Previously presented) The medical article of claim 43, wherein said high-molecular-weight therapeutic agent is applied in powder form to said adhesive region.

47. (New) The medical article of claim 1, wherein the microparticles are selected from metallic microparticles and ceramic microparticles.